



## ABOUT US

“One People, One Heart” - The JRF is committed to helping our communities become healthier and stronger. We believe in changing lives by creating hope and self-sufficiency, and we succeed by providing essential health and human services, community development and youth programs. Our life-improving services extend across all cultures and faiths, regardless of economic status.

The JRF serves as both a federally designated **Community Action Agency** administering a range of anti-poverty programs and a **Federally Qualified Health Center** providing primary care to those who have limited access to health care.

## Invest in PAAC

Making an impact each block of the way and creating hope together.

### About PAAC

The Perth Amboy Alliance for Community (PAAC) is a growing group of neighbors, agencies, educators, and small businesses who have worked together for the last 15 years to help make positive changes. Our original neighborhood plan, completed in 2008, and has served as a blueprint to support the residents of the PAAC Neighborhood. Since then, PAAC has made a lasting impact. Much has been achieved including the creation of the PAAC Neighborhood Association, beautiful community gardens, housing rehabilitation, small business support, dozens of economic development programs, and the totally transformed Francis Street Park and Water Stadium Park.

In 2022, PAAC received approval from NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for our 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-year plan. Although we have made great strides, our revitalization effort is a long-term commitment. This year we added additional innovative activities that will not only help to address the areas of distress that continue in our neighborhood, but also attract additional investments to support neighborhood initiatives.



GED Superstars



Community Garden



Back to School



Thursday Nights in the Park



1st Place NY/NJ Regional Competition



Financial Empowerment



Brush of Kindness



Community Engagement



Shop with a Cop

## HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

**(1). Leadership, Entrepreneurship Achievement Program (LEAP):** LEAP, in partnership with School Based Youth Services (SBYS) and the StepUp Program, provides high school students leadership development, entrepreneurial training, and hands-on experiences. Many enroll in Middlesex College’s Success Bound Program, where they take free college classes and join paid internships. LEAP motivates students to improve their communities, discover their talents, build careers, increasing their earning potential and reducing poverty risk.

- **Emerging Leaders (EL):** This initiative immerses youth in community health education and service learning. Students design strategies during the school year and implement them in the summer while earning stipends. EL empowers young people to create lasting change in local health outcomes.
- **Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP):** In partnership with the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), YEP equips teens to launch micro-enterprises. Using project-based learning, students gain critical entrepreneurial skills. NFTE reports 1 in 4 graduates start a business, and participants typically earn 50% higher salaries than peers.





## (2). Small Business Support & Development:

The PAAC team supports small businesses with workshops, management tools, and help securing resources. We assist with applications, provide emergency and improvement grants, and fund neighborhood restaurant listings on the PerthAmboyEats website. We offer startup micro-grants to YEP graduates, strengthening local businesses and family income.



## (3). Resident & Family Empowerment:

We offer a variety of inclusive, diverse, and equitable initiatives that prioritize opportunities for educational and job advancement and asset stabilization. Over 60% of neighborhood residents speak limited English. As a result, they experience the highest unemployment, lowest full-time employment, and lowest earnings.

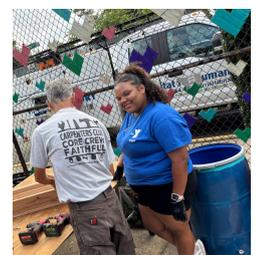
- **Family Leadership Academy (FLA):** A six-month academy for 10 families focused on financial education, savings, public system navigation, and leadership. Each family sets goals and receives a PAAC match on savings.

- **Language Social Cafes:** With Middlesex College, we host bilingual exchanges where Spanish speakers learn English and English speakers learn Spanish. Residents also access formal ESL classes to expand job, education, and civic opportunities.
- **Job Training:** We've learned that providing opportunities to be licensed, certified or earn a diploma helps generate better employment opportunities. Through the JRF Training & Testing Center (T&TC), our DOL approved Private Career School (PCS) and our Alternative Education Institute (AEI) we offer instruction and GED Testing in both English and Spanish. Our goal is to expand our in-demand offerings while also providing testing if applicable. In addition, PAAC hosts employment readiness workshops.
- **Career Enrichment:** Partnering with the Middlesex County Workforce Development Board, we offer access to the SkillUp Middlesex site, that offers online courses leading to certifications. We co-host the annual Career Fair with the City of Perth Amboy, Middlesex College, and PARTNER.



## (4). Neighborhood Repair Program:

In partnership with **Greater Middlesex & Morris Habitat for Humanity**, we provide essential home repairs to improve safety, preserve property values, and uplift the neighborhood. Projects include major and minor repairs, "A Brush with Kindness" beautification efforts, and one paid internship in the trades.



## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

### PAAC Neighborhood Association (PNA):

The PNA unites homeowners, renters, business owners, schools, and churches to address neighborhood concerns. They organize community meetings, cleanups, and local programs. By strengthening connections among residents, the PNA increases community engagement, employability, and stability. We also leverage NRTC funding to secure additional grants.



### • Community Garden:

With support from NRTC and Home Depot, PAAC renovated its community garden and plans to expand to help reduce food deserts. The garden provides fresh food and serves as a source of comfort and community connection.

### • Recreational Space Improvements:

We will upgrade equipment at Francis Street Park now PAAC Park, Water Stadium Park, and develop a dog play space in partnership with the Perth Amboy Recreation Department.

### • Thursday Nights @ the Park:

During the summer, residents gather at PAAC Park and Water Stadium Park for free evening events including movies, concerts, talent shows, and arts activities. These nights foster community connections, create safe play spaces, and provide a venue to distribute the Neighborhood Newsletter.

### • Shop with a Cop:

This innovative event engages fifty qualifying high school seniors, selected by lottery, in a unique partnership between the JRF (through SBYS, LEAP, and PAAC) and the Perth Amboy Police Department. Beyond providing holiday assistance, it fosters social justice and builds positive, lasting relationships between youth and law enforcement.

### • Healthy Lifestyle Programming:

We offer monthly nutrition and wellness workshops, a Senior Wellness Club, and regular health screenings. The JRF CHC Mobile Health Van also provides residents with preventive care and vital health information.



**Funding Requested: \$800,000**  
**Municipality: Perth Amboy**  
**Neighborhood: PAAC Neighborhood**  
**Organization's Website: [www.jrfnj.org](http://www.jrfnj.org)**  
**Contact Name: Sherri Goldberg**  
**Email: [sherri.goldberg@jrfnj.org](mailto:sherri.goldberg@jrfnj.org)**  
**Phone: 732-324-2114 ext. 100**

**CONNECT WITH US!**  
¡CONÉCTATE CON NOSOTROS!

PAAC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS (ASOCIACIÓN DE VECINOS PAAC REUNIONES)  
 SEPTEMBER 25 / SEPTIEMBRE 25  
 DECEMBER 19 / DICIEMBRE 19  
 6:00-7:00 PM, 3238 New Brunswick Ave.  
 PAAC POP UPS  
 Dates and Locations in QR Code  
 Photos & Logos on all Canvase QR

## SUMMER STARTS WITH PAAC

## Summer Events

JOIN IN ON THE COMMUNITY FUN!

### THURSDAY NIGHTS IN THE PARK

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PAAC SUMMER BASH (FIESTA DE VERANO DE PAAC) JULY 10 / 10 DE JULIO 5:00-7:00 PM #FRANCIS STREET PARK</li> <li>BRUSH OF KINDNESS JULY 22 / 22 DE JULIO 9 AM-5 PM #FRANCIS STREET PARK</li> <li>THURSDAY NIGHT IN THE PARK:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IN THE PAAC MOOD! JULY 24 / 24 DE JULIO 6:00-7:00 PM #WATER STADIUM PARK</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS: ZUMBA MIÉRCOLES DE BIENESTAR: ZUMBA JUL 2, JUL 9, JUL 16, JUL 23, &amp; JUL 30 5:30 - 7 PM #FRANCIS STREET PARK</li> <li>PAAC FIELD DAY (PAAC DÍA DE JUEGO) AUGUST 7 / 7 DE AGOSTO 5:30-7:00 PM #FRANCIS STREET PARK</li> <li>BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR! AUGUST 9 / 9 DE AGOSTO 5:30 PM #FRANCIS STREET PARK</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PAAC SPELLING BEE &amp; MAGIC SHOW! (CONCURSO DE DELETRAR &amp; SHOW DE MAGIA PAAC) AUGUST 21 / 21 DE AGOSTO 5:30-7:00 PM #WATER STADIUM PARK</li> <li>PAAC MOVIE NIGHT (NOCHE DE PELÍCULA CON PAAC) AUGUST 28 / 28 DE AGOSTO 5:30 PM #FRANCIS STREET PARK</li> </ul>
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\*MUST REGISTER WITH OUR QR CODE / \*DEBE REGISTRARSE CON NUESTRO CÓDIGO QR

Each of these initiatives reflects PAAC's continued commitment to building a healthier, more vibrant, and connected community. We thank our partners, volunteers, and residents for making these programs possible.